

ESA Report to Appropriations Committee June 2009

Immediately following the 2009 legislative session the Department of Education and the seven ESA directors began to work on a plan to secure contracts with school districts to recoup the funds lost from the budget cuts. These efforts have been dependent upon school districts contracting for ESA services using their ARRA stimulus funds. The plan involved three strategies to fund the ESAs.

Strategy #1 was outlined in a proposal presented to the ESAs in March, 09. Essentially it attempted to leverage the \$500,000 appropriated by the legislature. The idea is to encourage schools to match district dollars with the state appropriation in order to double the amount available to the ESAs. The proposal was agreed upon by the ESA directors and included:

DOE/ESA Matching funds strategy for 09-10

Given the resources provided for ESAs by the legislature, it is the desire of the Department of Education to work with the ESAs to secure contracts for services with schools. DOE agrees to provide a grant to each ESA to use in leveraging funds to match district dollars with DOE funds to provide services for individual school districts. It is the intention that these matching funds be used for the following purposes.

Outcome #1: NCLB Technical Assistance: Each ESA will offer technical assistance to all school districts identified for school improvement and encourage all school districts to adopt the SSOS school improvement model. Any school identified as not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress will be contacted by the regional ESA to offer services to include but are not limited to:

- a. Training in the development of the school improvement model adopted by the State.
- b. Data retreats and training in the use of data analysis tools to determine needs of the school or school district
- c. Technical assistance in writing the school improvement plan
- d. Technical assistance in developing interventions for the school improvement plan

Outcome #2: Professional Development in targeted programs: Each ESA will offer professional development opportunities for all public school districts addressing:

- a. **Instructional Strategies training:** Each ESA will offer professional development in the instructional strategies using Marano's research.
- b. **Provide assistance to school to implement HS 2025 programs;** Each ESA will offer training to advance the components of the HS 2025 program.

Fee for services

Any other professional development services with the school districts may be funded through direct fee for services contracts with the school districts. Fee structures may be determined by each ESA.

Funding mechanisms

1. Every school identified for school improvement will coordinate services for school improvement with their ESA – funds for this contract will come from a state match of dollar for dollar. ie. \$10,000 of services needed - \$5,000 from Title I stimulus funds from school district / State match \$5,000

84 schools in school improvement – $84 \times 5000 = \$420,000$ + state match of \$420,000

2. Any professional development services contracted with the ESAs within outcome #2 are also matched dollar for dollar between school district and state funds. Schools can use Title 1 stimulus funds for services.

Example 100 school districts contract for average of \$5,000 for services = \$500,000 + state match \$500,000 – total of \$1 million in contracts for professional development of targeted programs.

If school need (contracts with ESAs) is greater than state funds allow, the match will be pro-rated.

Strategy #2 involved the Department of Education working with school district leaders to use their ARRA funds to support the ESAs. Secretary Oster has worked hard to find avenues within the state and federal regulations for school districts to use the ARRA funds appropriately, while they mutually benefit the schools and the ESAs.

Strategy #3 involved the ESA directors actively offering services from their menu of professional development opportunities. To date several schools have already signed contracts with the ESAs with even more in discussions.

Education Service Agency	Number of contracted/committed school districts as of June 2009	Percent of contracted schools within the ESA region
ESA 1	34 of 40	80%
ESA 2	23 of 26	88%
ESA 3	18 of 27	68%
ESA 4	1 of 18	6% *
ESA 5	12 of 18	66%
ESA 6	no data received	
ESA 7	no data received	

*Note: Region 4 at NSU continues to secure contracts, but lost both of their ESA personnel due to the budget cuts. We are waiting for data from ESA 6 and 7.